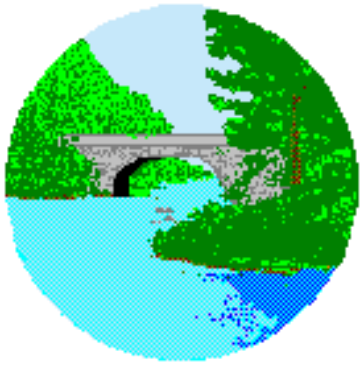

Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee

River Corridor Management Plan

Adopted

September, 1994

Antrim | | Bennington | | Boscawen | | Concord | | Deering | | Greenfield | | Hancock
Henniker | | Hillsborough | | Hopkinton | | Jaffrey | | Peterborough | | Rindge | | Stoddard

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River Corridor Management Plan

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RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SECTION II: RIPARIAN LANDS MANAGEMENT

RIPARIAN LANDS MANAGEMENT

Objective: Effectively manage riparian lands to protect river uses and values.

Background: The Local Advisory Committee recognizes that, with wise planning, a full range of appropriate land uses can be developed for lands in proximity to the river without thereby jeopardizing water quality or other important river values. Such a full range of uses is compatible with the Committee's balanced use philosophy and with the rights of landowners to pursue the highest and best use of their property, subject to applicable state and local law.

Action
Communities should be encouraged to adopt local ordinances which include building and septic setbacks and maintenance of vegetative buffers, subject to allowances for agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's).

Responsibility
Planning Boards

Implementation
A model ordinance is available through the Office of State Planning. Canterbury and Pembroke have thorough ordinances which can serve as local models.

Action
Communities should work in a coordinated fashion to identify existing and potential nonpoint source water pollution threats and adopt BMP's to address them.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Regional Planning Commissions
NH DES - Water Supply & Pollution Control Div.
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Implementation
Planning Boards adopt BMP's for inclusion in Site Plan Review and Subdivision Regulations. NRCS and Cooperative Extension should continue to work with individual landowners.

Action
Communities should adopt special provisions for building activities on slopes over 15% and should define slopes > 25% as unbuildable.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Planning Boards recommend appropriate policies to local governing body.

Action
Communities should prohibit the use of raised septic systems in floodplain areas as a part of a comprehensive floodplain ordinance.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Planning Boards recommend to local legislative body as a part of new or revised floodplain ordinance.

Action
State agencies owning and managing lands along the river should recognize and abide by the standards of this section.

Responsibility
State Agency Heads

Implementation
LAC should seek recognition by agency heads.

Action
Communities should encourage, or where appropriate require clustering of new development to preserve open space near the river.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Planning Boards should recommend the appropriate policies to the local legislative body.

Action
Communities should develop and adopt wetlands protection ordinances, including the identification and protection of Prime Wetlands.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Conservation Commissions
NH DES - Wetlands Board

Implementation
Conservation Commissions should initiate mapping and identification, and submit Prime Wetlands documentation to Wetlands Board for review. Planning boards should recommend appropriate policies to the local legislative body.

Action
Educational materials about the functions, values, and beneficial management of riparian zone lands should be developed and distributed to riverfront landowners.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Local Advisory Committee should work with Rivers Coordinator to produce and distribute materials.

Action
Communities should review and update subdivision, site plan review, excavation, and erosion and sediment control regulations.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Office of State Planning
Regional Planning Commissions

Implementation
LAC members should coordinate action with Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions.

Action
Communities should continue to allocate a percentage of the Current Use change tax toward purchase of conservation lands.

Responsibility
Planning Boards
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Conservation Commissions should sponsor action similar to those taken in Concord, Boscawen, and Canterbury.

Action
Communities should encourage following the BMP's developed by the NH Timberland Owner's Association for logging operations in the river corridor.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Planning Boards

Implementation
Planning Boards should adopt BMP's for inclusion in Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations.

Action
BMP's should be used for sludge and septage applications on river bottom and wetland areas. Applications should not be closer than 150 feet to those areas.

Responsibility	Implementation
Conservation Commissions Planning Boards Dept. of Environmental Services	Communities should include BMP's in local ordinances.

Action
Communities should formally recognize the value of Prime Agricultural land.

Responsibility	Implementation
Planning Boards	Appropriate language should be included in community Master Plans.

Action
Communities should establish a policy encouraging the donation of easements on agricultural lands. This should include explicit reference as to the public benefits thereof to satisfy IRS tax deductibility provisions.

Responsibility	Implementation
Planning Boards Conservation Commissions	Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions should work together to include the appropriate language in community Master Plans.

Action
Communities should protect agricultural lands through zoning ordinances such as floodplain regulation, cluster provisions, and "right to farm" provisions (see NH RSA 672:1).

Responsibility	Implementation
Planning Boards Regional Planning Commissions	Planning Boards should obtain model ordinances and other technical assistance from the RPC's.

Action
If/when the State develops a permitting system for water withdrawals, agriculture should be recognized as a valid and priority water use.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator

Implementation
Rivers Coordinator and LAC should monitor legislative progress and comment as appropriate.

Action
As specialty crops requiring more irrigation become increasingly popular, UNH Cooperative Extension, the ASCS, and NRCS should emphasize water conservation practices and technologies

Responsibility
UNH Cooperative Ext.
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Agricultural operators

Implementation
Listed organizations should work with individual operators converting, or considering conversion, to high water use crops.

Action
ASCS cost sharing programs related to conservation of the river should be fully funded.

Responsibility
UNH Cooperative Ext.
ASCS

Implementation
The Local Advisory Committee should support applications made to the ASCS.

Action
State Best Management Practices should be used for sludge and septage application on river bottom agricultural lands.

Responsibility
Local Boards

Implementation
LAC should review state BMP plan under development with provisions for modification if necessary.

Action
The purchase of agricultural development rights should be encouraged to prevent the loss of river bottom agricultural lands.

Responsibility
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Conservation Commissions
Land Trusts

Implementation
Conservation Commissions should use revenue from Current Use Change Tax. LAC should support any efforts to re-establish a state funding mechanism. LAC should help identify funding sources for interested landowners.

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RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SECTION I: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

WATER QUALITY

Standard: Maintain the Class B water quality standard, and avoid any degradation of important biological and chemical components of that standard.

Background: The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers currently meet Class B water quality classification. The principal regulations used to achieve and maintain this level are the federal Clean Water Act administered by the NH Department of Environmental Services and the State's own water pollution law (RSA-149).

Action
Communities should develop and adopt Water Resource Management and Protection Plans pursuant to RSA 4-C:19.

Responsibility
Regional Planning Commissions; Local Governments

Implementation
Communities should initiate plans through planning boards and conservation commissions in consultation with Regional Planning Commissions.

Action
A citizen water quality monitoring program should be developed. Obtain landowner permission where land access is required for sampling.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
LAC should seek funds in consultation with State Rivers Coordinator to develop a program and meet training and equipment needs. LAC should work through Conservation Commissions to build support and recruit citizen volunteers.

Action
Expand water quality criteria to include site specific resource uses and values inherent to the river.

Responsibility
NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Implementation
Rivers Coordinator would initiate necessary legislative and/or rulemaking changes.

Action
Develop model stormwater management and erosion control guidelines for inclusion in local subdivision, site plan review, and excavation ordinances.

Responsibility
Regional Planning Commissions; Dept. of Environmental Services

Implementation
Using the existing model developed by the NH Assoc. of Conservation Districts, the LAC, with assistance from the RPC's, should develop a regionally based model for distribution to local officials.

Action
Develop and distribute annual education materials to report results of citizen water quality monitoring program

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Through summary reports, fact sheets, and public forums, the LAC should take the lead in publicity and education regarding the program, its results, and implications.

Action
Initiate projects to develop and demonstrate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for nonpoint source pollution control

Responsibility
NH Department of Environmental Services; Natural Resources Conservation Service; County Conservation Districts; UNH Coop Ext.

Implementation
The LAC submits proposals for demonstration projects to the NH DES. DES refines proposals for inclusion in yearly work plan. (guidelines for proposal development are available through the Rivers Coordinator)

Action
Prepare and distribute information on BMP's for nonpoint source pollution control

Responsibility
NH Department of Environmental Services; Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Conservation Districts; UNH Coop Ext.

Implementation
Agencies distribute fact sheets and other information to local officials, developers, and cooperative extension.

Action
Develop enabling legislation that allows private landowners to control erosion along their river frontage

Responsibility
NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Implementation
State legislative procedures

WATER QUANTITY

Standard: Maintain flow conditions that will support the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources associated with and dependant upon the river, while considering industrial, commercial and community based uses which support the local economy.

Background: NH presently has no comprehensive program for regulating the quantity of withdrawals from rivers. The State does have a registration program for withdrawals over 20,000 gallons per day. The Rivers Management and Protection Program suggests that the DES develop a program ensuring that designated rivers retain enough flow to support important river functions and values. Draft rules in this regard are expected soon.

Action
Monitor and regulate water withdrawals to ensure the protection of adequate flows to achieve the management standard.

Responsibility
Dept. of Environmental Services
DES Rivers Coordinator
NH Wetlands Board

Implementation
Rivers Coordinator implements protected flow through legislative rulemaking process of the Rivers Management and Protection Program. LAC works with Rivers Coordinator and resource experts to ensure that proposed flows satisfy resource protection goals. Also, monitor ongoing efforts within the Legislature to establish a withdrawal permitting system. Support such legislation if appropriate to satisfy standard.

Action
Establish and monitor flow gauging stations at suitable sites.

Responsibility
NH Fish & Game
NH DES - Water Resources
US Geological Survey

Implementation
Rivers Coordinator and LAC contact NH Fish and Game to initiate process.

Action
Make sure that all withdrawals over 20,000 gallons per day are registered with the state.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
DES - Water Resources Div.

Implementation
LAC and Conservation Commissions identify known users and check with DES Water Resources Division to ensure registration.

STREAM CHANNEL INTEGRITY

Standard: Avoid alterations to the natural stream channel and banks that would degrade their natural appearance and functions, unless no feasible alternatives exist, and mitigate the impacts of existing and future alterations to the greatest extent possible.

Background: Proposed alterations to the stream channel and bank presently require review and permitting by the NH Wetlands Board. The US Army Corps of Engineers also reviews proposed projects, but only initiates their full permitting review procedures in cases where a project's potential impacts are large or controversial.

Action
Proposed alterations to the natural stream channel and bank should be allowed only after: 1) scrutiny to establish project need; 2) careful analysis of alternatives; 3) analysis of long-term compatibility with the natural river system (including up and downstream considerations).

Responsibility
NH Wetlands Board
US Army Corps of Engineers

Implementation
LAC should notify the Wetlands Board and Army Corps of its desire to see this standard implemented. LAC should review all permit applications to reinforce the standard. The Army Corps should recognize this standard by requiring individual project review when so requested by the LAC or NH Rivers Coordinator.

Action
State agencies owning and managing lands along the river should recognize and abide by the standards of this section.

Responsibility
State Agency Heads

Implementation
LAC should seek recognition by agency heads

Action
Restoration of natural stream bank conditions should be encouraged for existing and future problem areas.

Responsibility
UNH Coop Ext
DES Rivers Coordinator
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Implementation
LAC should work with appropriate groups to develop and distribute landowners guide for stream bank plantings and vegetative restoration.

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RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section of the management and implementation plan is organized around three sections: Water Resources Management; Riparian Lands Management; and Outstanding Resources Management. Subsections are used where appropriate, as follows:

Water Resources Management

- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Stream Channel Integrity

Riparian Lands Management

(no subsections)

Outstanding Resources Management

- Fish & Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Historical and Archaeological Resources
- Geologic and Natural Features

All of the recommended actions in this plan relate directly to one of the headings above, and redundancy between sections has been avoided wherever possible. Thus, for example, recommended actions for Water Quality are not repeated in the Fish and Aquatic Resources section despite the obvious overlap.

In addition, for each action, the Committee has attempted to identify who is directly responsible for carrying out that action ("Responsibility"). We have also suggested strategies for carrying out the actions ("Implementation"). We have made every attempt to be realistic regarding assigning responsibilities and the associated implementation strategies.

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RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

NATURAL RESOURCES

GEOLOGIC

The Contoocook river is unique in that it flows north-northeasterly, a feature that has made it an important travel corridor in pre-Colonial times. Features of interest include areas of rapids in Hillsborough and West Henniker and sand deposits which indicate presence of a lake bed in the valley during the times of glacial activity.

Geologic resources of the river corridor include Pleistocene and Quaternary sand and gravel deposits. These deposits form the most productive aquifers in the region. A 1986 study in Peterborough found that most of the significant aquifers in that town were near the Contoocook River.

WILDLIFE

The following wildlife species are known to inhabit the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers areas and/or similar habitats in the central/southwestern area of New Hampshire.

Mammals

Opossum
Star-nosed Mole
Hairy-tailed Mole
Deer Mouse
Masked Shrew
White-footed Mouse
Red-backed Mouse
Field Mouse
Meadow Vole
Pine Vole
Smokey Shrew
Short Tailed Shrew
House Mouse
Norway Rat
Meadow Jumping Mouse
Eastern Chipmunk
Little Brown Bat
Woodland Jumping Mouse
Silver-haired Bat
Red Bat
Gray Squirrel
Muskrat
Southern Flying Squirrel
Beaver
Fisher
Northern Flying Squirrel
Woodchuck
Porcupine
Short-eared Weasel
Common Mink
River Otter
Eastern Long-tailed Weasel
Striped Skunk
Snowshoe Hare
New England Cottontail
Red Fox
Grey Fox
Coyote
Moose
Black Bear

Eastern Long-eared Brown Bat
Hoary Bat
Big Brown Bat
Red Squirrel
Raccoon
Bobcat
White Tailed Deer

Birds

The varied habitats along the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers support almost any bird species found in southern New Hampshire. Many species of waterfowl use the river as a migratory stop in the spring and fall. The following species can be found in the Contoocook and North Branch River corridors.

Great Blue Heron
Belted Kingfisher
Green-backed Heron
American Bittern
Least Bittern
Alder Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Common Loon
White Throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow
House Finch
Gold Finch
Rock Dove
Chimney Swift
Kingbird
Catbird
Turkey Vulture
Mourning Dove
Sharp Shinned Hawk
Red Tailed Hawk
Kestrel
Blue Jay
Titmouse
Red Breasted Nuthatch
White Breasted Nuthatch
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Junco
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
American Black Duck
Mallard Duck
American Widgeon
Ring-necked Duck
Evening Grosbeak
Starling
Pine Siskin
Brown Creeper
Grackle
Purple Finch
Fox Sparrow
Cow Bird
Rusty Blackbird
Wood Thrush
Chipping Sparrow
Indigo Bunting
Ovenbird
Towhee
Eastern Phoebe
Oriole
Mockingbird
Barn Swallow
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Bluebird
Indigo Bunting
Northern Cardinal
Wild Turkey
Woodcock
Common Merganser
Hooded Merganser
Cedar Waxwing
Warbling Vireo
Swamp Sparrow
Wood Peewee
Pileated Woodpecker
Nighthawk
Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Flicker
Barred Owl
Red poll
Scarlet Tanager
Whip-poor-will
Eastern Kingbird
Broad Winged Hawk
Cliff Swallow
Double Crested Cormorant
Spotted Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Various Warblers
Northern Pintail
Snow Goose
Green Winged Teal
Virginia Rail
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye

Reptiles

A number of reptiles commonly found in the rivers corridor were identified by the Committee.

Black Snake	Milk Snake	Eastern Hognose Snake
Dekay's Snake	Redbelly Snake	Musk Turtle
Ribbon Snake	Common Water Snake	Wood Turtle
Painted Turtle	Spotted Turtle	
Snapping Turtle	Eastern Ringneck Snake	

Amphibians

Several species of amphibians can be found in the corridor areas.

Two Line Salamander	Red Spotted Salamander
Dusky Salamander	Mud Puppy
Bull Frog	Green Frog
Leopard Frog	Pickerel Frog
American Toad	Fowler's Toad
Wood Frog	Spotted Salamander
Spring Peepers	

Fish

The following fish species are known to inhabit the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers.

Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout
Fallfish	Chain Pickerel	Atlantic Salmon fry and parr
Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	White Perch
Yellow Perch	Walleye	Redbreast Sunfish
Pumpkinseed	Longnose Dace	Common White Sucker
Blacknose Dace	Common Shiner	Banded Sunfish
Eel	Johnny Darter	

The rivers generally have clean water and good pH and dissolved oxygen levels for trout habitat. The most significant high quality habitat area for cold water fish species is the rapids in the Hillsborough/West Hopkinton area. This area is used as a nursery for stocked Atlantic Salmon fry, and also provides a good habitat for trout. The fast moving sections of river in Jaffrey and Peterborough also provide good trout habitat. The North Branch is stocked by the NH Fish and Game Department.

Viable warm water fish habitat is found in the slower moving impoundment areas. These would include Powder Mill Pond with the river above it as well as the river section between Contoocook Village and The Island. Warm water fish populations are natural.

The Contoocook River is a vital component of the Merrimack River watershed anadromous fish restoration program initiated in 1969. At present, there is no upstream passage for fish above the Amoskeag Dam in Manchester, but plans call for future fish passage facilities to allow for movement as far as the Hopkinton-Everett

flood control dam. Anadromous species making use of the passage facilities would include Alewife, Atlantic Salmon, and Shad.

VEGETATION/NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The following plant species can be found within the river corridor.

Trees

White Pine
Ash Species
White Birch
Sweet Birch
Hop Hornbeam (Ironwood)
Tulip Poplar
Basswood
Dogwood species
Eastern Redcedar
Norway Spruce
Serviceberry
Staghorn Sumac
Pussy Willow
Hemlock
Poplar
Gray Birch
Maple species
Atlantic White Cedar
Poplar Alder
Black Gum
Eastern Larch
Linden
Scotch Pine
Sycamore
Douglasfir
Oak species
American Elm
Yellow Birch
American Beech
Hickory species
Sweetgum
Cherry species
Hawthorn
Locust species
Sassafras
Witch-hazel
Aspen

Shrubs

Nannyberry
Highbush Blueberry
Arrowwood
Gray Dogwood
Yew species
Buttonbush
Rosebay Rhododendron
Arrowwood
Mapleleaf Viburnum
Juniper species
Blackberry
Spicebush
Highbush Cranberry
Winterberry
Red-osier Dogwood
Mountain Laurel
Black and Red Raspberry
Winterberry

Herbaceous Plants

Yellow Hawkweed
Bluet
Cow Vetch
Milkweed
Shepard's Purse
Pipsissewa
Wintergreen
Bedstraw
Cardinal Flower
Goldenrod
Starflower
Canada Mayflower
Nodding Trillium
Royal Fern
Interrupted Fern
Common Speedwell
Ragweed
Sheep Sorrel
Timothy
White Campion
Bluebead Lilly
Partridge Berry
Blue Flag
Buttercup
Fringed Polygala
Stonecrop
May Apple
Bracken Fern
Wood Fern
Marginal Fern
Queen Anne's Lace
Common Cinquefoil
Poison Ivy
Red Clover
Bristly Sasparilla
Pink Ladyslipper
Bunch Berry
Indian Cucumber
False Climbing Buckwheat
Common Blue Violet
Solomon's Seal
Celandine Poppy
Sensitive Fern
Cinnamon Fern

Aquatic Vegetation

Cattails
Arrow arum
Lilypads
Sedges
Pickerelweed
Sweetflag
Bulrushes
Pondweed

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The river corridor provides habitat for a number of threatened or endangered bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and plant species.

Mammals

Threatened

Pine Martin

Endangered

Canada Lynx
Small-footed bat

Fish

Endangered

Sunapee Trout
Shortnose Sturgeon

Reptiles

Endangered

Timber Rattlesnake

Birds

Threatened

Common Loon
Osprey
Cooper's Hawk
Common Nighthawk
Northern Harrier
Purple Martin
Purple Martin

Endangered

Pied-billed Grebe
Peregrine Falcon
Loggerhead Shrike
Bald Eagle
Sedge Wren
Henslow's Sparrow

Plant Species

Threatened

Wild Lupine	Andrew's Gentian	Three-seeded Mercury
Fringed Gentian	Ginseng	Barren Strawberry
Rue Anenome	Farwell's Milfoil	Common Mare's Tail

Endangered

Green-adder's Mouth	Sweet Coltsfoot	Hoary Mt. Mint	Arethusa

The NH Natural Heritage Inventory lists three areas of "exemplary natural ecological communities" within the river corridor.

Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (Stoddard and Antrim)
Southern New England Level Bog (Stoddard)
Southern New England Acidic Seepage Swamp (Antrim)

WATER QUALITY

With only two exceptions, the Contoocook River meets Class "B" water quality standards as specified by the NH Department of Environmental Services. The DES 1993 ambient survey indicated an area with a dissolved oxygen problem in Jaffrey in the area of Cavender Road and a problem with zinc in Hopkinton in the West Hopkinton Road crossing area. Substantial progress has been made in improving the quality of the river since the late 1940's. During the 1980's several waste water treatment facilities were newly constructed or upgraded along the river.

NATURAL FLOW CHARACTERISTICS

The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers have a drainage basin area of approximately 766 square miles with a total fall of 1500 feet (1200 of which are in the upper ten miles of the corridor). Of the remaining fall, 70% is concentrated in Bennington, Hillsborough, Henniker and Penacook.

The rivers pass through 11 hydropower dams, two flood control dams, and four impoundments which are subject to seasonal draw-downs. Even with these restrictions, the rivers can generally be described as having natural flow characteristics for the majority of their length. The hydropower facilities do not withdraw quantities of water sufficient enough to alter the characteristics of the river below the facilities. The flood control structures are utilized only during times of flood stage flows, and water flows through them unimpeded during times of normal flow periods.

MANAGED RESOURCES

IMPOUNDMENTS

The Contoocook River has 25 dams along its length, and the North Branch has five dam facilities. The Hopkinton-Everett Dam in Hopkinton is used for flood control purposes, two dams in Jaffrey are used for storage, and 15 dams are used for hydroelectric power. The remainder of the 30 noted facilities are inactive. A complete listing of all dam facilities is contained in Appendix A of this plan section.

WATER WITHDRAWALS and DISCHARGES

There are several major industries and municipalities that withdraw large amounts of water (more than 20,000 gallons per day) from the Contoocook River for use in product processing, cooling towers, and as backup supplies to drinking water. Many manufacturers, industries and towns along the river also discharge treated effluent from waste water treatment plants onto the Contoocook. Withdrawals and discharges alike are expected to increase as the region continues to develop. A list of major water users (as supplied by the NH Department of Environmental Services) and dischargers is contained in Appendix B of this plan section.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

HISTORICAL/ARCHEOLOGICAL

The Contoocook River played a vital role in the settlement and development of the region. The river provided important resources (fish and wildlife for food along with a transportation and communication route) to indigenous inhabitants as well as immigrants to the region. Several archeological sites have been identified along the river, and there are several sites within the river valley which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The villages of Peterborough, Jaffrey, Contoocook, Penacook, Bennington and Hillsborough were established along the river to take advantage of the river as a source of transportation and water power.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers support their bordering communities with a variety of scenic, cultural and recreational areas and opportunities. Additionally, the local economy depends on the rivers' resources to support industrial, commercial and community based uses related to water.

Recreational areas and opportunities associated with the rivers include park areas, scenic vistas, bicycle, hiking, and cross county ski trails, boating, canoeing, swimming, picnicking, birding, hunting, and fishing.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

FISHING

The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers provide habitats for several species of cold and warm water sporting fish. The section of rapids between Hillsborough and West Henniker as well as the North Branch are stocked by the State, and offer excellent habitat for trout. The section of river above Peterborough along Route 202 is a popular fishing area. Other areas along the main stem of the river contain habitat for warm water fishes. Good fishing can be found in the majority of the impoundment areas and in the flat stretches of the rivers.

BOATING

Excellent boating and canoeing opportunities for persons of all levels of expertise can be found on both the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers. Both challenging rapids and flatwater areas exist within the river corridor. The rapids between Hillsborough and West Henniker offer Class III-IV whitewater including the renowned Freight Train Rapids. The river between Contoocook Village and The Island in Penacook is used by motorboats, canoes, and rowboats. The North Branch has an area of Class V rapids (located between the double stone arch bridge on Route 9 and the old Hawthorne College campus) for whitewater paddlers.

ACCESS

Although there are numerous informal access areas along the rivers, there are few established public access areas within the river corridor. Public access areas include the NH Fish and Game area at the covered bridge in Greenfield, the River Road area in Henniker, and at The Island in Penacook. Additional access points can be found at bridge crossings throughout the corridor.

OTHER RESOURCES

SCENIC

An abundance of scenic areas can be found within the river corridor. Following is a list of significant views within the corridor.

* View across Powder Mill Pond to Crotched Mountain

* The falls below the village of Bennington

* Cork Plain and Hedgehog Mountain seen from the river in Deering

* The falls in Hillsborough at the Route 149 bridge

* View from the undeveloped area along Route 202 in Hillsborough and Henniker

* Area within the Federal flood control area in Hopkinton and Henniker

* Farmland below Contoocook Village

* Woodlands above Broad Cove

* Palisades near the mouth of the river in Concord

LAND USE

The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers contain segments which have been classified under three out of four categories of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. These categories include natural (free flowing in a natural, undeveloped state), rural (adjacent to lands partially or predominantly used for agriculture or forestry with widely dispersed residential development), and community (flowing through populated areas with residential and commercial development). The landscape of the river corridor is made up of diverse land uses which range from undeveloped woodlands, agricultural, low density residential, and village areas with high density residential and commercial land uses. A complete summary of land uses within the corridor is found in the nomination document.

LAND USE CONTROLS

All towns within the corridor have adopted Master Plans which were developed to assist the communities in present and future land use planning. The Plans should serve to supplement zoning, subdivision and wetlands regulations in areas such as river corridor protection. Several communities in the corridor have adopted ordinances which utilize land use regulation tools such as overlay zones and setback requirements to help protect the river corridor.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT; APPENDIX A
DAMS WITHIN THE CONTOOCOOK RIVER CORRIDOR

Name of Dam	Town	Owner	Purpose
Contoocook Lake (Red Dam)	Jaffrey	Town of Jaffrey	Storage
Contoocook River	Jaffrey	"	Storage
Contoocook River	Jaffrey	Jason C. Sawyer	
Contoocook River	Jaffrey	Unknown	Inactive
Cheshire Pond	Jaffrey	D.D. Bean	Hydropower
Contoocook River	Peterborough	Unknown	Inactive
Noone Mills	Peterborough	River Street Assoc.	Hydropower
Harris Dam	Peterborough	Harris Construction	Industrial
Transcript Printing Co.	Peterborough	Town of Peterborough	
North Village Dam	Peterborough	Town of Peterborough	

Powder Mill Pond	Peterborough	Monadnock Paper Mills	Hydropower
Monadnock Power	Bennington	"	Hydropower
Pierce Power	Bennington	"	Hydropower
Paper Mill	Bennington	"	Industrial
Contoocook River II	Bennington	Unknown	Inactive
Hosiery Mill Dam	Hillsborough	Hillsborough Hydroelectric Ltd.	Hydropower
	Hillsborough	Partnership	
Henniker Falls		Nelson & Ivan Maine	Inactive
Contoocook Valley	Henniker	Mary Fletcher	
Paper	Henniker	Unknown	Inactive
Contoocook River	Henniker	Army Corps. of Engineers	Flood Control
Hopkinton-Everett Dam	Hopkinton	Consolidated Hydro Assoc.	Hydropower
Hoage-Sprague Dam	Hopkinton	Town of Hopkinton	
		Briar Hydro Assoc.	
Hopkinton Project	Hopkinton	Penacook Hydro Assoc.	Hydropower
York Dam	Concord	NH Hydro Assoc.	Hydropower
Penacook Upper Falls	Concord		Hydropower
Penacook Lower Falls	Concord		Hydropower
Robb Reservoir	Stoddard	Public Service of NH	
Steele Pond	Antrim		Hydropower
Jackman Reservoir	Antrim		

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT; APPENDIX B

ACTIVE MAJOR (> 20,000 GPD) WATER USERS OF THE CONTOOCOOK RIVER WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN CORRIDOR

WITHDRAWALS

USER NAME	FACILITY
City of Concord	Water Works
Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc. (withdrawal & return)	Paper Mill
Town of Jaffrey (Poole Pond)	Water Works

DISCHARGES

USER NAME	LOCATION
Bio-Energy Corp.	West Hopkinton
Millipore Corp.	Jaffrey (Contoocook Lake)
Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.	Bennington
New Hampshire Ball Bearings HiTech Div.	Peterborough
Papertech Corp.	West Hopkinton
Public Service Co. of NH Jackman Hydro	Hillsborough
Town of Antrim wastewater treatment facility	Antrim
Town of Henniker wastewater treatment facility	Henniker
Town of Hillsborough wastewater treatment facility	Hillsborough
Town of Hopkinton wastewater treatment facility	Hopkinton
Town of Jaffrey wastewater treatment facility	Jaffrey

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Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee River Corridor Management Plan

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INTRODUCTION

The New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program

In 1988, the NH State Legislature created the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RSA Chapter 483) in response to increasing and competing demands that were being made on the state's rivers. The purpose to the program is to protect the state's river resources through joint efforts of state and local governments. State designation of outstanding rivers will protect significant river resources, and local river corridor management plans will address the use and conservation of lands within the river corridor.

The program is administered by the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and is staffed by a State Rivers Coordinator. A State Rivers Management Advisory Committee was established to advise the DES on the implementation of the management and protection program.

Nomination of a river to the state program must include an inventory of the river's resources, and must be submitted to the DES Commissioner. Following an evaluation of the nomination by the State Rivers Coordinator and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and public hearings in communities along the river, the Commissioner forwards approved nominations to the State Legislature. The Legislature must then adopt a bill (amendment to RSA 483) designating the river into the program.

In 1990, the State Legislature adopted instream protection measures for designated rivers and a rivers classification system to match general river characteristics with the specific protection measures. The system includes classifications for natural, rural, rural-community, and community rivers. Each classification has established protection measures related to dams, hydroelectric facilities, channel alterations, water quality, protected instream flows, interbasin water transfers, siting of solid and hazardous waste facilities, and recreational use of the river.

The river designation program was designed to increase public awareness of outstanding rivers and provide incentive for communities along such rivers to adopt river corridor management plans to insure that future development is consistent with protection recommendations outlined in the designation. It is important to note that designation does not preempt local land use or zoning authority granted to communities. Following designation, a local advisory committee is appointed by the Commissioner. Committee members are recommended to the Commissioner by their respective communities. One of the responsibilities of the committee is to develop a river corridor management plan, which is to be brought before each river community for consideration and approval. The DES, through the State Rivers Coordinator, will offer technical assistance to local advisory committees in the development and adoption of corridor plans.

The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Nomination

In November 1990, the Contoocook Greenway Coordinating Committee with co-sponsors Central New Hampshire and Southwest Regional Planning Commissions submitted the nomination of the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers to the DES Commissioner and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC). Copies of the nomination were distributed to all applicable communities for their review. Following submission of the nomination to the State, public hearings were held by the RMAC in January, 1991 in Peterborough and Henniker. The RMAC considered the nomination at their meetings of February and March, 1991, and voted to approve the nomination. Legislation to include the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers in the State Rivers Management and Protection Program passed the House in March 1991, the Senate the following May, and was signed by the Governor shortly thereafter. Participants in the nomination process are listed in Appendix A.

The Local Advisory Committee

In accordance with RSA 483:8-a III, duties of Local Advisory Committees include:

> a) advise the Commissioner, Advisory Committee, and municipalities within the designated river corridor on matters pertaining to river management,
>
> b) to consider and comment on any federal, state, or local governmental plans to approve, license, fund, or construct facilities that would alter the resource values and characteristics for which the river is designated,
>
> c) to develop and adopt a river corridor management plan, and
>
> d) to report annually to the Commissioner and Advisory Committee on the status of compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, local ordinances, and plans relevant to the designated river corridor.

Following enactment of legislation including the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers in the State Rivers Management and Protection Program, the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was formed. The LAC is made up of individuals from the thirteen communities (see Appendix B maps) fronting on the two rivers who were nominated by the selectmen or city council from their municipalities and appointed by the DES Commissioner. Current Committee members are listed in Appendix C.

The focus of the Committee's work is to develop a Corridor Management Plan for the designated rivers. The Committee has been meeting on a regular basis since the Spring of 1992, and several subcommittees have been established. They include working groups dealing with access, municipal regulations, shoreland protection, archives, and dams and bridges. A survey was distributed in the corridor towns during the summer of 1993 which addressed such issues as land use, access and resource values. A summary of the responses is included in Appendix D of this plan section.

The Contoocook River Corridor

The Contoocook River flows for 71 miles from Poole Pond in Rindge north to Concord where it flows into the Merrimack River (see Appendix B maps). The river corridor contains both rural and urban habitats, and encompasses a drainage basin of approximately 766 square miles with a total topographic fall of over 1,500 feet. The landscape of the river corridor includes rural agricultural, forested, wetland, residential, and urbanized town center areas. The river provides recreational opportunities, water supply for surrounding towns, power for electricity, and wildlife habitat. Several dams exist along the river including the Edward MacDowell Dam in Peterborough, the Blackwater Dam in Webster, and the Hopkinton-Everett flood control dams in Hopkinton and Weare. Route 202 parallels the river through much of the corridor area.

The North Branch flows for 16 miles from Stoddard to Hillsborough where it joins the Contoocook River. The North Branch River is more free-flowing and natural in character than the Contoocook River. Its shoreland is predominantly undeveloped with natural forested areas along most of the river, and contains several areas of rapids.

River Values

The Rivers Management and Protection Program Act provides criteria for designation of rivers which include representation of significant resource values at a state or local level. Resource values which are to be evaluated include geologic resources, wildlife, vegetation and natural communities, fisheries resources, water quality, open space, scenic resources, natural flow characteristics, impoundments, hydroelectric resources, water withdrawals/discharges, historical/archeological resources, community resources, recreational opportunities, and public access. The Contoocook and North Branch Rivers were found to be representative in several of these resource values at both the regional and local level. Specific outstanding resources described in the nomination were geologic resources, wildlife and plant resources, fish resources, water quality, scenic values, impoundments, water withdrawals, waste water discharges, historic and archeological resources, community resources, and recreational resources. The wide variety of significant natural, managed, cultural, and recreational resources found within the Contoocook and North Branch River corridors add to its importance as a resource needing sound management and protection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Much of this management plan document is based on review and adaptations of the February 22, 1994 Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee's River Management and Implementation Plan. Also, much data was reviewed and utilized from the archives of the Nomination Committee and their 1991 nomination document and associated Report to the General Court.

This plan was prepared with the assistance of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission and grant funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency, administered by the NH Department of Environmental Services through Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act.

NOTES:

This plan is considered to be a dynamic document, and will be reviewed and evaluated for needed updates and amendments on a regular basis by the Local Advisory Committee. Amendments and updates will be made based on input from the Committee and river corridor communities.

Appendix E of this plan section contains a list of federal, state, and private agencies and organizations which can serve as sources for technical information and assistance relevant to this Plan.

INTRODUCTION; APPENDIX A

CONTOOCOOK AND NORTH BRANCH RIVERS NOMINATION PARTICIPANTS 1991

Antrim:	Rod Zwirner and Richard Block
Bennington:	Dave Barrett and Geoff Verney
Boscawen:	Rene Bollinger
Concord:	Terry Frost and Win Robinson
Deering:	Ed Cobbett
Greenfield:	Jerry Adams
Hancock:	Dave Reardon
Henniker:	Nancy Foley
Hillsborough:	Jolayne Boynton and Marian Baker
Hopkinton:	Chuck Wistaszek and Dana Rood
Jaffrey:	Mark Kresge
Peterborough:	Dave Stephenson and Dick Estes
Rindge:	Rich Mellor and James Lockey
Stoddard:	Jane Avert
Contoocook River Greenway Coordinating Committee:	Sharon Francis
NH Dept. of Environmental Services:	Kathryn Ueland, State Rivers Coordinator

National Park Service; Rivers and Trails Program:	Burnham Martin
Southwest Regional Planning Commission:	Bob Panton and Maureen Barber
Central NH Regional Planning Commission:	Bill Klubben and Eric Williams

INTRODUCTION; APPENDIX C

CONTOOCOOK and NORTH BRANCH RIVERS LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1994

Antrim:	Rod Zwirner and Richard Block
Bennington:	Dave Barrett, Muriel Lajoie, Geoff Verney, and Phil Germain
Boscawen:	Vacant
Concord:	Terry Frost and Don Murray
Deering:	Gary Bono
Greenfield:	Vacant
Hancock:	Dave Reardon
Henniker:	Roger Belson
Hillsborough:	Marian Baker and Lynn Peasley
Hopkinton:	Chuck Wistaszek, Dana Rood, and Robert Houston
Jaffrey:	Bill Elliot and Robert Austin
Peterborough:	James Lawn (Chair) and Ken King
Rindge:	Sheila Ames
Stoddard:	Vacant
With Assistance By: NH Dept.of Environmental Services:	James MacCartney, State Rivers Coordinator, 1994 Kathryn Ueland, State Rivers Coordinator, 1992 and 1993
Southwest Regional Planning Commission:	Jeff Porter, Planner Maureen Barber, GIS Specialist
Central NH Regional Planning Commission:	Amy Parker, Regional Planner

INTRODUCTION; APPENDIX D

CONTOOCOOK & NORTH BRANCH RIVERS LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMER, 1993 SURVEY RESULTS

QUESTION # 1

Do you own property on or near the river in any of the following towns?

Towns:	How many:	% out of 142:
Concord	38	26.76%
Peterborough	27	19.01%
Hillsborough	19	13.38%
Hancock	11	7.75%
Henniker	10	7.04%
Antrim	7	4.93%
Deering	7	4.93%
Bennington	6	4.23%
Hopkinton	5	3.52%
Penacook	4	2.82%
Greenfield	2	1.41%
Franklin Pierce Lake	2	1.41%
Jaffrey	2	1.41%
Antrim Deering	1	.70%
No Response	1	.70%
TOTAL:	142	100%

QUESTION # 2

Does your land abut the Contoocook River?

Reply:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
Yes	105	73.94%
No	31	21.83%
No Response	6	4.23%
TOTAL:	142	100%

QUESTION # 3

Does your land abut the North Branch River?

Reply:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
No	108	76.06%
No Response	22	15.49%
Yes	12	8.45%
	Total: 142	

QUESTION # 4

Is this your principal residence?

Reply:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
Yes	90	63.38%
No	44	30.99%
No Response	8	5.63%
	Total: 142	

QUESTIONS # 5 & # 6

How many feet of river frontage do you own?
How many acres do you own at this location?

Total of Responses:		Average of Responses:	
River Frontage:	83,066	River Frontage:	776.32
River Acreage:	2,326	River Acreage:	18.91

QUESTION # 7

What would you say is the principal character of your property? If there are multiple uses, please approximate the percentage or acres of your property devoted to each use.

Type of Usage:	Ave % of Property	% of Owners Holding This Land	# of Owners Holding This Land
Residential	70%	73.38%	102
Forest	62%	27.34%	38
Recreational	58%	15.83%	14
Commercial/	53%	12.95%	12
Other	40%	10.07%	18
Agricultural	27%	8.63%	22
Wetlands			

TOTAL: 206

(many property owners' land is a combination of types)

QUESTION # 8

Do you permit public access to the river across our property?

Reply:	How Many:	% out of 142
No	84	59.1
Yes	37	26.1
No Response	21	14.8

TOTAL: 142

QUESTION # 8A

Are you familiar with RSA 508:14 that protects anyone who without charge permits public use of their land for recreation from being liable for personal injury or property damage in the absence of intentionally caused injury or damage?

Reply:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
No	92	64.79%
Yes	36	25.35%
No Response	14	19.86%
TOTAL:	142	100%

QUESTION # 9

Circle any of the following problems related to public use of the river that have affected you.

Noise:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
No Response	114	80.28%
Yes	28	19.72%
Litter:		
No Response	89	62.68%
Yes	53	37.32%
Vandalism:		
No Response	129	90.85%
Yes	13	9.15%

Erosion:		
No Response	102	71.83%
Yes	40	28.17%
Fast Boats:		
No Response	129	90.85%
Yes	13	9.15%

TOTAL: 142/each category

QUESTION # 10

Do you feel there is a need for increased public access to the river via public or town land?

Reply:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
No	83	58.45%
Yes	41	28.87%
No Response	17	11.97%
Comment	1	.70%
TOTAL:	142	100%

QUESTION # 11

Is any of your land protected as open space by:

Type:	How Many:	% Out of 142:
None	48	33.80%
No Response	41	28.87%
Current Use	37	26.06%
Easement	13	9.15%
Easement/CU	1	.70%
Easement/Deed Res	1	.70%
Wetlands	1	.70%
TOTAL:	142	100%

QUESTION # 12

Please indicate how important it is to protect each of the following listed resources

	Extremely Important	Important	Not Important	Don't Know Enough About
Water Quality	114... 87%	11... 8%	2... 2%	4... 3%
River Flow	85... 65%	32... 24%	5... 4%	9... 7%
Floodplains	67... 51%	42... 32%	7... 5%	15... 11%
Wetlands	71... 54%	38... 29%	11... 8%	11... 8%
Rare/Endanger. Species	77... 59%	32... 24%	9... 7%	13... 10%
Fisheries/ Wildlife	88... 67%	32... 24%	2... 2%	9... 7%
Recreational Access	33... 25%	66... 50%	19... 15%	19... 15%
Agriculture	45... 34%	50... 38%	13... 10%	23... 18%
Natural Scenic Character	74... 56%	40... 31%	6... 5%	11... 8%
Historic/ Archeological	50... 38%	45... 34%	13... 10%	23... 18%
Dams/ Impoundments	44... 34%	36... 27%	20... 15%	31... 24%

Tabulated by Central NH Regional Planning Commission; April, 1994

QUESTION # 13

Do you believe that communities along the Contoocook and North Branch River, including yours, should:

Take Action:	How Many:	% Out of 142
Local Action	71	50%
No Response	26	18.31%
Adopt SPA	25	17.61%
Need More Info	19	13.38%
Both	1	.70%
TOTAL:	142	100%

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY RESPONDENTS

- I think the river should be used as an energy source, also; hydroelectric doesn't harm the river.

- We have seen what happens to our rivers and their shores without regulation, and it is not in the best interest of wildlife or future generations to continue in that mode. Environmental regulations do work for the benefit of landowners and the general public, and the towns within your jurisdiction should take the issues seriously. With any luck, we can protect what is left of these resources.

- Your objectives are legitimate, but landowners' interests must be considered.

- Years ago, this river (Contoocook) was developed as a recreation area. Almost everyone who has bought property along the shore has done so for recreational purposes. I believe it should remain so because with all the development it would be impossible to take it back to its natural state. I believe the wetlands have lost their value, especially from Broad Cove to the Merrimack because the flood control dams have taken their place.

There has been an extra amount of erosion on the lower part of this river since Briar Hydro dug the canal down so deep it changed the course of the river. Therefore I believe the people in this area should be allowed to build retaining walls or whatever is needed to keep their property from being washed down through the canal.

People who are concerned about the natural state of the river are much too late. Industry has taken over and I believe each individual should be allowed to use his property as he sees fit.

- In order to stop erosion people should not be allowed to cut trees down on the river banks.

- The least amount of federal and state management the better.

- I am not in favor of any group of persons coming and going on my property. Reason #1: littering in the past has been too much. Reason #2: I have had two cows destroyed in the past. If I have to go your way I will get out of current use and post the property so no one will be able to trespass as it is now. You have no idea of what you're doing to landowners.

- Do not restrict boating, and preserve the natural beauty.

- The use of powerboats should be limited. The Dept. of Safety should patrol more often than they do (after an accident has occurred). It is not safe to swim in the Riverhill section of the Contoocook.

- I think that there is far too much regulation of land and now water. There is no need for the further regulation of water, waterways, etc.

Rather there is need of cleaning up the shoreline and encouraging people to make the river shoreline attractive and accessible to the public.

San Antonio had one of the worst situations one could imagine. Industry and commercial lined the river. It was dirty, muddy, filthy, and a total disaster. Today, people go to San Antonio just to walk the river walk. There are large boats for riding people up and down the waterway, there are shops, restaurants and it is beautiful.

We must blend commercial, industrial, residential and our waterways so that they all create a beautiful image. It can be done. Regulations are not the positive answer to a bright tomorrow. They are a stranglehold on progress.

- I don't see the value of any more regulations. As it is now we have fast, loud motorboats, water skiers, jet skiers, all of which are against the law in our no wake area. The river at our home is very narrow and fast boats cause much turbulence along the shore. Fast boats are illegal in this area but no action is taken to stop them. What good are more regulations when the ones on the books are not enforced?. We rarely see a Fish and Game boat and when they do come they are so obvious ahead of time that before their boat is launched all the fast boats are off the river.

- It would be nice if someone could organize a river clean-up. There's alot of debris, ie: tires, metal and old stumpage.

- I thought you were concerned with in-stream flow, not land use. No more zoning thank you.

- I prefer local level control when possible, but I would guess that only the State could provide the uniformity of protection needed in this case.

- I prefer local level control when possible, but I would guess that only the

State could provide the uniformity of protection needed in this case.

- Limit boat motors to 40 mph or less. The river is too narrow for water skiing and boat races. This just increases erosion. Ban jet skis as hazardous and noisy.

- As you know the Contoocook River is 50 miles long. The two miles in Henniker called Henniker Falls is used by sportsmen more than the other 48. The landowners on this strip are all in agreement that should any regulations be made on our property it will be posted 100%.

- I think if the state is going to control the river corridor, the fifth amendment should be adhered to - "no private property taken without just compensation".

- It is, of course, extremely important to protect all of our natural resources, and I support such action when done in a realistic and reasonable fashion. Two local (Peterborough) unreasonable examples, in my opinion are:

1. The imposition of a conservation zone 200 plus feet "along any pond, river, stream or brook appearing on a US Geological Survey". The 100 plus foot wide overlay in the downtown commercial areas is, of course, ridiculous. Both amount to nothing more than a taking of ones personal property assets without compensation.

2. The obstructionist actions taken by radical conservationist to "protect" that pitiful piece of land located at the corners of Route 101 and Elm Street. As one citizen expressed it "that land isn't fir to support a family of frogs!". (For clarification, conservationism is good, radical conservationism is not!)

It is also extremely important to protect and maintain those individual rights and personal property rights we still manage to retain and not allow them to be further unreasonably eroded, as they sometimes are, by existing over-zealous boards, commissions, etc. (ie. Planning, ZBA, Conservation zones, flood plain districts, aquifer protection zones, wetlands protection districts, Historic District, architectural reviews, and on and on, ad infinitum.

A reasonable balance between the need for the protection of resources and the need for the protection and preservation of individual rights must be attained - and not one at the expense of the other.

Regarding the question 'Do you believe that communities along the Contoocook and North Branch River should take actions at the local level to manage and protect these and other river related values?' It depends on what "actions" are suggested, and what groups shall be assigned the task of managing and protecting. I begin to get very nervous and concerned whenever I hear of yet another plan or program designed to

"manage" or "protect" or "preserve". It is usually claimed that it's necessary "for your best interests", but it generally seems to result in a further reduction of my individual rights (which I value very highly!) and it always costs me money!

It would seem that a conservation commission or similar agency would be that logical group to oversee the responsibilities of management and protection. However - considering the lack of diversity and obvious bias of our current Con-Com, that would not be a logical, or a sensible, decision.

And a final thought, (though its digressing a bit)... shall we next talk about Current Use (or Current Abuse?) and the negative impact this has had on our tax base and economic climate?

- The towns should take action to protect rivers, but actions should be at least as stringent as RSA 483-B.

- Above all, purity of water and flow amount are most essential for a healthy river.

- Access to the river with adequate parking is desperately needed. Having tried to set something up in the old Bennington dump site about 20 years ago, only to find out that the town was liable for people using it - it was abandoned. The Bennington Rec Committee was involved also - this site was great for elderly walking, fishing, no noise activities, etc.

The culvert on Rt 202 - up from that in Hancock is a piece of land good for parking and boat ramp, etc. - over the railroad tracks and directly to the river. No one lives there so the matter of noise is not involved but you must maintain the area. As for the example on Rt 202 the State has put a small parking area and a rubbish barrel which overflows and pollutes the small stream that Bennington has named watershed. This type of management I feel is inadequate. I am for a controlled patrolled area up from the culvert going towards the Peterborough-Bennington-Hancock line for boat and parking access.

- While surveying lands acquired by NH Fish and Game Department (near covered bridge in Hancock/Greenfield) on two separate occasions I met several fishermen and canoeists. Possibly as many as ten different people were talked to while I was working in that area. All seemed curious as to what I was doing and why. All seemed concerned as to the availability and location of access to the Contoocook River for fishing and recreation. Most were from fairly distant places - Nashua, Hudson, Merrimack, etc., and liked the remoteness and amount of area the Fish and Game acquisition made possible. All seemed friendly and courteous and considerate of others. This particular location seemed free of litter and orderly. Possibly, this is another example of one or two people ruining it for many. However, on my work details it appeared not to be of harm to anyone, abutters, fishermen, canoeists, etc.

What is important here is the fact of there only being so much land and water available to everyone. It should be used and not abused. If persons are willing to assist in access across their lands they should receive some form of compensation (break in taxes, etc.) and not penalized if they disallow it or change their minds. Abusers of use should be penalized to the fullest extent of the law. All should be allowed to do what they wish without inflicting harm or injury to society in total. A multiple use approach would need to be enacted and shown to all to peaceably co-exist. Possibly this would cost something. Possibly this could be done by permit fees similar to use of state parks and campgrounds. Possibly this could be done by lottery if use becomes overburdensome. Policies need to be determined and created for all with reward for those who give and payments by those who use. Policies need to be realistic to begin with and abusers need to be penalized when wrongs are done.

- The landscape is one of the elements that gives Peterborough its character and individuality. If it is protected it contributes to the appeal and uniqueness of the town. The water system is important not only for this reason, but because our water supply (in the broadest sense) is fundamental to our health and the sustainability of the community. Some carefully planned access to the river for recreation and the establishment of park areas in the downtown would not be inconsistent with protection of the river and would add value to the town.

INTRODUCTION; APPENDIX E

SOURCES OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Federal Agencies

Federal Emergency Management Agency
J.W. McCormick Building
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 223-9540

US Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest
P.O. Box 638
Laconia, NH 03247
(603) 528-8721

US Geological Survey - WRD
525 Clinton Street
Bow, NH 03301
(603) 225-4681

US Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
JFK Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617)565-3533

US Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
4th Floor, Ralph Pill Marketplace
22 Bridge Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-1411

US Dept. of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Federal Building

National Park Service
River and Trail Conservation Assistance Program
New Hampshire/Vermont Field Office
5 Thomas Hill
Woodstock, VT 05091
(802) 457-4323

National Park Service
River and Trail Conservation Assistance Program
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 223-5123

US Army Corps of Engineers
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02254
(617) 647-8111

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capital Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 357-8300

Durham, NH 03824
(603) 868-7581

USDA NRCS, Merrimack County Office
10 Ferry Street
P.O. Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302-2042
(603) 225-6401

USDA NRCS, Hillsborough County Office
468 Route 13 South
Milford, NH 03055
(603) 673-2409

USDA NRCS, Cheshire County Office
196 Main Street, Room 212
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 352-3602

State Agencies

NH Fish and Game Dept.
2 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3211

NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development (DRED)
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2411

DRED Division of Forests and Lands
(603) 271-3456

DRED NH Natural Heritage Inventory
(603) 271-3623

DRED Division of Parks
(603) 271-3556

DRED Division of Recreation
(603) 271-3627

NH State Historic Preservation Office
Walker Building
State Office Park South
15 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3483

NH Dept. of Agriculture
Pesticide Control Board
10 Ferry Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3550

NH Division of Historical Resources
Dept. of Libraries, Arts,
and Historical Resources
P.O. Box 2043
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3483

NH Land Conservation Investment Program
2 1/2 Beacon Street

NH Dept. of Transportation
1 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3734

NH Office of State Planning
2 1/2 Beacon Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2155

Public Utilities Commission
8 Old Suncook Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2431

NH Wetlands Board
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3406

Waste Management Division
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503

UNH Cooperative Extension Service; State Office
59 College Road, Taylor Hall
Durham, NH 03824-2618
(603) 862-1520

Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3623

NH Dept. of Agriculture
The Concord Center
10 Ferry Street
P.O. Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302-2042
(603) 271-3551

Office of the Commissioner
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503

Water Resources Division
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
64 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3406

Water Supply and Pollution Control Division
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503

Regional Planning Agencies

Lakes Region Planning Commission
Humiston Building
103 Main Street, Suite 3
Meredith, NH 03253
(603) 279-8171

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
329 Daniel Webster Highway
Boscawen, NH 03303
(603) 796-2129

Nashua Regional Planning Commission
115 Main Street
P.O. Box 847

Nashua, NH 03061
(603) 883-0366

North Country Council
65 Main Street
Littleton, NH 03561
(603) 444-6303

Rockingham Planning Commission
121 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833
(603) 778-0885

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
University Center
400 Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101-1107
(603) 669-4664

Southwest Regional Planning Commission
20 Central Square
2nd Floor
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 357-0557

Strafford Regional Planning Commission
County Courthouse
259 County Farm Road
Dover, NH 03820
(603) 742-2523

Upper Valley - Lake Sunapee Council
199 Heater Road, Suite 1
Lebanon, NH 03766
(603) 448-1680

Private Organizations

American Rivers
801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-6900

Environmental Policy Institute
218 D Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 783-7400

The Harris Center for Conservation Education
341 King's Highway
Hancock, NH 03449
(603) 525-3394

National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 832-3200

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9945

Audubon Society of New Hampshire
3 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9909

Merrimack River Watershed Council
694 Main Street
West Newbury, MA 01985
(508) 363-5777

New Hampshire Rivers Council
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 228-6472

NH Association of Conservation Commissions
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-7867

NH Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Peter Davis, President
11 Old Dublin Road

National Assoc. of State River Conservation Programs
801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Suite 302
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 543-2682

National Wildlife Federation
1400 16th Street
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 797-6800

Sierra Club
530 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 981-8634

Trout Unlimited
501 Church Street, NE
Vienna, VA 22180
(703) 522-0200

The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-2197
(301) 897-9770

Merrimack River Watershed Council
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 226-2696

The Nature Conservancy
New Hampshire Field Office
2 1/2 Beacon Street; Suite 6
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-5853

Appalachian Mountain Club
P.O. Box 298
Gorham, NH 03581
(603) 466-2721

NH Farm Bureau Federation
Sheep Davis Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-1934

Southern NH Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

Jaffrey, NH 03452

Friends of the Earth
1045 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 433-7373

438 Route 13 South
Milford, NH 03055

The Jimwinterry Group
Trail Organization
37 Clinton Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-5797

Land Trusts

Audubon Society of New Hampshire
3 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9909

Society for the Protection of NH Forests
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9945

Concord Conservation Trust
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9945

Harris Center for Conservation Education
341 King's Highway
Hancock, NH 03449
(603) 525-3394

The Nature Conservancy
NH Field Office
2 1/2 Beacon Street; Suite 6
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-5853

New England Forestry Foundation
238 Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
(617) 864-4229

New England Wildflower Society
Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701
(508) 877-7630

Trust for Public Land
67 Batterymarch Street; Fourth Floor
Boston, MA 02110-3260

(617) 737-0261

Turkey River Basin Trust
33 Washington Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-9721

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Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee River Corridor Management Plan

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RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SECTION III: OUTSTANDING RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

RECREATION

Objective: To accommodate and provide opportunity for a variety of recreational uses of the river and river corridor while protecting the interests of landowners and the integrity of natural and cultural river values.

Background: Recommendations in this section take into account responses to the survey distributed by the LAC during the summer of 1993.

Action
Each community should have at least one publicly owned access area with adequate parking for canoe and/or boat launching, fishing, swimming, and picnicking.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Recreation Commissions
Public Lands Managers
Planning Boards

Implementation
Conservation Commissions and town boards should investigate the upgrading of present sites or the establishment of new areas looking first to existing public land areas.

Action
All publicly owned access/launching areas should post signs for establishing a "carry-in, carry-out" refuse policy and reminding users to treat riverfront lands with care and respect to protect the natural habitat from erosion and other degradation, and the rights of property owners.

Responsibility
Public Lands Managers
DES Rivers Coordinator
Conservation Commissions
Recreation Commissions
Lakes/Rivers Associations

Implementation
The Local Advisory Committee should work with the DES Rivers Coordinator and town boards to develop content of signs. LAC and Rivers Coordinator should coordinate sign production and distribution.

Action
Riverfront lands which receive high public use should be periodically patrolled for refuse removal, etc.

Responsibility
Public Lands Managers
Conservation Commissions
Recreation Commissions

Implementation
Recreation and Conservation Commissions should organize volunteer efforts (civic groups, Scouts, etc.) as appropriate for the season and specific needs of individual sites/areas. Public lands might be taken care of by the appropriate agency staff.

Action
The possibility of a limited number of public camping areas should be investigated.

Responsibility
Public Lands Managers
Conservation Commissions
Recreation Commissions
State Agencies

Implementation
Opportunities on existing public lands should be explored. Other sites, or easements to them, should be purchased from willing sellers.

Action
The maintenance and enhancement of important river views should be encouraged.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Recreation Commissions
Public Lands Managers
Dept. of Transportation

Implementation
The LAC should work with local boards to identify and protect important viewsheds through selective cutting, roadside maintenance, scenic easements, or other appropriate means.

Action
Signage noted above for publicly owned access and recreation sites should be made available to the owners of privately owned access and recreation areas where public use occurs.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator
Conservation Commissions
Recreation Commissions

Implementation
The Local Advisory Committee should work with local boards to make signs available and notify landowners thereof.

Action
The abandoned railroad corridors should be preserved in public ownership for future transportation and/ or recreational use.

Responsibility
NH Department of Transportation
State and local Heritage Trail Committees

Implementation
The LAC should coordinate with the NH Dept. of Transportation and trail committees to facilitate recreational uses of abandoned railroad corridors.

Action
Efforts to enforce existing laws and regulations regarding headway speed, litter, and other marine safety issues should be increased. Publicly owned ramp accesses should be posted with speed restrictions where applicable.

Responsibility
NH Department of Safety,
Div. of Marine Safety
Public Lands Managers
Local Law Enforcement

Implementation
Local Advisory Committee and DES Rivers Coordinator should seek additional patrolling of problem areas through the Division of Marine Safety.

Action
Recreational needs and issues should be periodically reviewed for the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers as a whole.

Responsibility
NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development
NH Office of State Planning
Community Recreation Committees

Implementation
The Local Advisory Committee should monitor recreational needs and issues.

WILDLIFE

Objective: Maintain and enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat dependant upon the river and river corridor given the need to balance the needs of wildlife with the those of riparian landowners and the other outstanding natural and cultural resources included in this plan.

Background: The ability of the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers to support present and future wildlife populations, including riparian habitat critical for migratory birds, waterfowl, Bald Eagles, and other river dependant species is heavily dependant upon the management of riparian lands.

Action
Seek the protection of important wildlife habitat areas through a variety of means, including: clustering; subdivision set-asides; set-backs; voluntary agreements; easements; and fee purchase.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Planning Boards
NH Fish & Game
Private Organizations, such as the Harris Center

Implementation
The LAC should work with Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards in the review of permit applications. Planning Boards should target clustering where appropriate. The most important areas should receive permanent protection through purchase, easements, or agreements.

Action
Identify critical wildlife habitat areas, including heron rookeries, waterfowl nesting and holding areas, important wetlands, important travel corridors, etc.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
NH Fish & Game
Audubon Society
US Fish & Wildlife Service
NH Natural Heritage Inventory

Implementation
The LAC should contact Conservation Commissions and resource experts/ agencies to encourage further identifications and assessment work.

Action
Conduct workshops for riparian landowners on wildlife habitat maintenance and enhancement.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Local Advisory Committee
NH Fish & Game

Implementation
The Local Advisory Committee members should work with Conservation Commissions, NRCS and Conservation Districts, NH Fish & Game, UNH Cooperative Extension - Wildlife, and the Audubon Society to establish a program of workshops.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Objective: Monitor and protect known sites of historical and archaeological significance, and promote public appreciation and awareness of these resources. Continue to identify and document additional sites.

Background: The NH Division of Historical Resources monitors and researches historic and archaeologic sites in cooperation with local historical societies. Sites listed, or

officially eligible for listing, in the National register of Historical Places receive strong protection from federal agency actions pursuant to the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. State RSA 227C ("Historic Preservation") provides listed sites with a lesser degree of protection (advisory only) from State agency actions.

Key Action
Public and private landowners should be notified as to known or suspected sites on their property.

Responsibility	Implementation
Div. of Historical Resources Local Historical Societies	State DHR should work with local Historical Societies in notification.

Key Action
Where possible, written agreements should be developed with landowners to protect known sites on a voluntary basis.

Responsibility	Implementation
Div. of Historical Resources Local Historical Societies	Local Historical Societies should work with DHR to identify and contact interested landowners. Sites on public lands should be pursued through the appropriate agency.

Key Action
A systematic inventory and assessment of sites should be conducted on a proactive basis, and eligibility for National Register or other listings/status should be established.

Responsibility	Implementation
Local Historical Societies Div. of Historical Resources	Local Advisory Committee should stimulate activity in each community through subcommittee action.

Action
An interpretive museum should be established on any point along the rivers utilizing historic buildings such as abandoned mill sites or covered bridges. This should be devoted to the historical development of the region and the preservation of Native American artifacts.

Responsibility	Implementation
Div. of Historical Resources Historical Societies Local Native American Experts	LAC should contact agencies to stimulate action and assist in fund raising.

Action
Communities should work together to develop a historic features trail in conjunction with the Heritage Trail and the development of a canoe guide.

Resoponsibility
Historical Societies
NH Heritage Trail Committee
DES Rivers Coordinator

Implementation
LAC should contact the Historical Societies and Heritage Trail Committee to stimulate action.

Action
The Local Advisory Committee should review all permit applications for potential impacts on river-related sites.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator

Implementation
NH Rivers Coordinator should ensure that all permit applications reach LAC in timely fashion.

GEOLOGIC AND NATURAL FEATURES

Objective: Promote the understanding and protection of special geologic and natural features associated with the river, including: varved glacial deposits; high sand dunes; rare plant communities; floodplain forests; oxbow ponds; and beaches.

Background: The ability of the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers to support special geologic and natural features is critically linked to riparian lands management and stream channel integrity.

Action
Efforts to locate, identify, and document important geologic and natural features of the river area should continue.

Responsibility
The Nature Conservancy
NH Natural Heritage Inventory
Conservation Commissions

Implementation
Local Advisory Committee should contact Conservation Commissions to initiate action.

Action
Educational materials about the values and management needs of special features should be prepared and distributed to river users, landowners, town boards, school groups, and other parties. Interpretive signs could be posted to educate river users about sensitive features and the need to respect them.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
NH Natural Heritage Inventory
SPNHF - Outdoor Education Center

Implementation
LAC should contact Heritage Inventory to assess needs and appropriate actions in this area.

Action
Public lands managers should work to protect special river-related features on public lands through setbacks, vegetative buffers, agreements, easements, etc.

Responsibility
Public Lands Managers
DES Rivers Coordinator
Natural Heritage Inventory

Implementation
Rivers Coordinator and LAC should work with landowning agencies to reach agreements.

Action
Communities should work to protect special river-related features through setbacks, subdivision set-asides, agreements, easements, etc.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Planning Boards
The Nature Conservancy
SPNHF; Local Land Trusts

Implementation
LAC should monitor permit applications and works with Conservation Commissions to set priorities. Nature Conservancy should help to structure any easements or agreements.

Action
Purchase of fee title or easements should be pursued for the most important or vulnerable areas.

Responsibility
Conservation Commissions
Planning Boards
The Nature Conservancy
SPNHF; Local Land Trusts
The Harris Center

Implementation
LAC should work with Conservation Commissions and The Nature Conservancy to identify most important and vulnerable sites, and to seek funds.

FISH AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

Objective: Maintain, enhance and promote populations of resident and anadromous fish, freshwater mussels, and other aquatic resources.

Background: The ability of the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers to support present and future populations of resident and anadromous fish and other aquatic resources (including diverse freshwater mussel populations) is linked heavily to water flow, water quality, and stream channel conditions.

Action
Review all permits applications for impacts upon resident and anadromous fish, including important habitat, water quality, and stream flow parameters.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator
NH Wetlands Board
NH Fish and Game

Implementation
Rivers Coordinator should supply LAC with permit applications.

Action
Maintain adequate flow conditions to support and enhance current resident fish, aquatic resources, and anadromous fish habitat.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator
NH Fish & Game
US Fish & Wildlife Service
State Legislature
NH Wetlands Board

Implementation
LAC and Rivers Coordinator should facilitate expert review of draft Instream Flow Rules when they are released.

Action
Maintain adequate water quality conditions to support and enhance current resident fish, aquatic resources, and anadromous fish habitat.

Responsibility
NH DES - Water Supply & Pollution Control Div.
DES Rivers Coordinator

Implementation
Point and nonpoint water pollution control measures (see water quality chapter) should be monitored for effectiveness relative to fish habitat viability.

Action
Continue research and education efforts to identify significant aquatic resources and their ecological role.

Responsibility
NH Natural Heritage Inventory
NH Fish & Game
US Fish & Wildlife Service
The Harris Center
Trout Unlimited
NH Audubon Society

Implementation
LAC should provide support to agencies involved in research and education efforts.

Action
Work to identify the specific flow requirements necessary to maintain and enhance resident and anadromous fish and aquatic resources.

Responsibility
DES Rivers Coordinator
NH Fish & Game
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Implementation
Research may be needed to assess the effectiveness of proposed protected flow levels in sustaining species diversity and habitat quality. This will need to be revisited when draft rules are promulgated under the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

B A S E M A P S

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